

## **Appropriations Committee**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3 - HEARING ON GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED CUTS TO  
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5 - HEARING ON LOW WAGE WORKER PROPOSAL**

I was disappointed to learn that the Governor's proposed budget cuts include early childhood education and eliminating vital programs. As one of your constituents, and a Stamford Early Childhood Collaborative partner, I urge you to reconsider.

The family and social setting around a child is a powerful influence on children's development. An integrated family centered system that incorporates health services, early care, education, family support and parent education is fundamental in ensuring that children are healthy and ready to succeed in school. Recruiting good pre-school teachers is also a major roadblock to solving the preschool quality crisis. Low wages and benefits offered to pre-school teachers is the single most important factor in hiring and retaining effective teachers.

The social, emotional, educational and economic advantages of quality pre-school programs and initiatives, translates to better lives for children, their families and our communities. If I can be of any assistance, please call me. Thank you for your time and your commitment to the children of Connecticut.

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